

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 16888 081307Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9515

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 16888

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IS, EG

SUBJECT: AMOCO'S SEISMIC WORK IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF (A) CAIRO 16680, (B) STATE 294531

1. ROSS CRAIG, AMOCO EGYPT MANAGER INFORMED US DECEMBER 8 THAT SEISMIC WORK IN SOUTHERN GULF OF SUEZ HAS BEEN PROCEEDING MORE SLOWLY THAN EXPECTED BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER. AS OF DECEMBER 7 HOWEVER, MOST OF WORK HAD BEEN COMPLETED, WITH EXCEPTION OF NORTH-EASTERN CORNER WHICH WAS SUBJECT OF REFTELS. AS FAR AS HE AWARE THERE HAVE BEEN NO INCIDENTS.

2. REGARDING NORTHEASTERN CORNER, CRAIG SAID THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED SEISMIC WORK IN REST OF AREA BE CONDUCTED FIRST AND THEN HE WOULD TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT NECESSITY SURVEYING THAT CORNER. HE AND TECHNICAL PEOPLE HAVE NOW HAD ANOTHER LOOK AND DECIDED IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO RUN LINES IN THAT PART OF AMOCO CONCESSION AREA. ACCORDINGLY WHEN REST OF WORK IS FINISHED, VESSEL WILL ATTEMPT TO SURVEY CONTROVERSIAL NORTHEASTERN CORNER.

3. AS WE HAVE MENTIONED BEFORE, AMOCO IS PREPARED FOR LIKELY ISRAELI INTERCEPTION, ALTHOUGH CRAIG CLEARLY HOPES, BASED ON FACT THERE HAS BEEN NO TROUBLE TO DATE, THAT THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN.

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4. RE PARA 2. REF B, CRAIG HAS NOT OFFERED ANY

CLARIFICATION OF APPARENT CARTOGRAPHIC MISUNDERSTANDING.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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